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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Feb. 15, 1978

EXCISE

Congressman Timothy Wirth
Congressman George Miller
Washington, D.C.

Dear Gentlemen:

The progressive stand that President Carter and his administration has taken regarding U.S. and Caribbean affairs is one that I very much agree with. Realizing that Ambassador Young has worked diligently to establish these positive relations, I would hate to see his efforts being undermined. This, I am afraid may happen to some extent because of the presumptuous actions of one U.S. citizen, Tim Stoen.

Mr. Stoen has misrepresented his intentions, not only to the Guyanese government officials, but to some U.S. officials also. He is asking different people in the U.S. government to become involved in a private custody dispute within the country of Guyana, So. America. I understand that you gentlemen were approached by Mr. Stoen and he evidently was able to misconstrue some of the facts in this case sufficiently so as to cause you to go against already existing foreign policy of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of sovereign nations.

The United States has some very effective 'goodwill ambassadors' in the nation of Guyana, by the name of Peoples Temple church and Rev. James Jones. There are well over 1,000 people located at the church mission site in the North West District of Guyana. The services that the various members give to the surrounding communities include access to the Temple's doctor and entire medical staff free of cost; technical training in both agriculture and numerous mechanical area; quality education for children and adults by certified teachers on location; additional protein supply to the area, introduced by the thousands of chickens, pigs, and various livestock on the project itself, and many, many other aspects as well. Peoples Temple also carries on human service programs in their San Francisco based church. Both the Temple and their pastor, are widely known and respected for the good works they carry on.

Please Congressman Wirth and Congressman Miller, reconsider your involvement in a matter which should be taken care of solely in the Guyanese court room without intervention from any outside forces.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

cc: President Carter

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